

Remarks

Examiner's Note

As noted by the Examiner, claim 23 contained a typographical error. The error has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 13 was also amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-9, 14-20, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,652,292 to Pratt (hereinafter "Pratt"). Applicant notes that starting with the rejection of claim 3 onward, the action describes the art of record as "Kamiya." Applicant has assumed that such description was in error and has assumed that all occurrences of "Kamiya" were intended to be "Pratt."

Claim 1 requires "a substrate received in said cavity." The official action cites circuit board 50 as the substrate, receptacles 20 as openings, and housing 16 as defining a cavity. Circuit board 50 sits atop and across receptacles 20 and is not within housing 16. Accordingly, the cited substrate is not received within the cited cavity.


Additionally, claim 1 requires "second portions [of the header electrical terminals] ... [and] said substrate forming an electrical and mechanical connection therewith... wherein said mechanical connection at least partially retains said connector header and substrate to said casing." Applicant is unclear how the official action proposes that the connection between terminal pins 40 and circuit board 50 (shown in Fig. 5) at least partially retain housing 16 thereto. For at least the above reasons, Applicant believes that the proposed rejection of claim 1 is improper and respectfully requests its withdrawal. Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 14, similarly to claim 1, requires "positioning a substrate in said cavity." As discussed above, circuit board 50 is not positioned in the cavity of housing 16. Additionally, claim 14 requires "providing a sealing member between said casing and said header which is compressed in the mating direction." The official action identifies depending flange 36 as the sealing member. Pratt fails to teach that depending flange 36 is compressed in any direction. For at least the above reasons, Applicant believes that the proposed rejection of claim 14 is improper and respectfully requests its withdrawal. Claims 15-26 depend from claim 14 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicants request that this response be considered a request for an extension of time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants request that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this response be charged to the account of Baker & Daniels, Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below should any question or comment arise during consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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